

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (New): An isolated *Escherichia coli* having its *dadA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not express a functional D-amino acid oxidase.

Claim 23 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, wherein the breakdown of at least one D-amino acid is reduced below 10% within > 10 hours compared to an otherwise similar strain which expresses a D-amino acid oxidase from *dadA*.

Claim 24 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, wherein the breakdown of D-methionine, D-phenylalanine or D-aminobutyric acid is reduced compared to an otherwise similar strain which expresses a D-amino acid oxidase from *dadA*.

Claim 25 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, which co-expresses carbamoylase and hydantoinase, and optionally, a hydantoin racemase and/or carbamoylamino acid racemase.

Claim 26 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, which is *Escherichia coli* DSM 15181.

Claim 27 (New): A process for preparing a D-amino acid comprising:
culturing in a suitable medium the isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, and
recovering a D-amino acid.

Claim 28 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-methionine.

Claim 29 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-tryptophan.

Claim 30 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-phenylalanine.

Claim 31 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-aminobutyric acid.

Claim 32 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-serine.

Claim 33 (New): The process of claim 27, wherein said isolated *Escherichia coli* is DSM 15181.

Claim 34 (New): An isolated *Escherichia coli* having its *dadA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not express a functional D-amino acid oxidase; and having its *dsdA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not express a functional D-serine dehydratase.

Claim 35 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 34, wherein the breakdown of at least one D-amino acid is reduced below 10% within > 10 hours compared to an

otherwise similar strain which expresses a D-amino acid oxidase from *dadA* and a D-serine dehydratase from *dsdA*.

Claim 36 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 34, wherein the breakdown of D-methionine, D-phenylalanine, D-aminobutyric acid or D-serine is reduced in said mutant compared to an otherwise similar strain which expresses a D-amino acid oxidase from *dadA* and a D-serine hydratase from *dsdA*.

Claim 37 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 34, which co-expresses carbamoylase and hydantoinase, and optionally, a hydantoine racemase and/or carbamoylamino acid racemase.

Claim 38 (New): The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 34, which is *Escherichia coli* DSM 15182.

Claim 39 (New): A process for preparing a D-amino acid comprising:
culturing in a suitable medium the isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 34, and
recovering a D-amino acid.

Claim 40 (New): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-serine.

Claim 41 (New): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-methionine.

Claim 42 (New): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-tryptophan.

Claim 43 (New): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-phenylalanine.

Claim 44 (New): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is D-aminobutyric acid.

Claim 45 (New): The process of claim 34, wherein said isolated *Escherichia coli* is DSM 13182.